

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03921 150925Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FOR NEA DUBS, ONLY, FROM AMSTUTZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, AF
SUBJECT: YOUR COMING TO KABUL

1. I HAVE FROM THE START BEEN DELIGHTED TO LEARN YOU WERE
BEING PROPOSED TO SUCCEED AMBASSADOR ELIOT. AND I AM NOW MUCH
RELIEVED THAT THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME HAS APPROVED YOUR APPOINTMENT.
MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I VERY MUCH
LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU -- AND ALSO TO THE PROSPECT
OF THERE BEING A NEW TOP-CLASS TENNIS PLAYER IN TOWN.

2. AS SOON AS YOU CAN DO SO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE
AS TO WHEN YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE. THIS WOULD
HELP US IN TERMS OF OUR PLANNING AND GETTING THINGS READY FOR
YOU.

3. I HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR
ARRIVAL AND YOUR FIRST WEEK OR SO. HERE IS A SUGGESTED SCENARIO:

A) YOU WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT BY MYSELF AND THE
SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM (AND INTERESTED WIVES).
I THINK WE WOULD ALL WANT TO BE THERE TO GREET YOU.

B) IF YOU ARRIVE IN THE MORNING, NAN AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
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YOU AND MRS. DUBS FOR LUNCH. YOUR FIRST EVENING COULD BE FREE TO
REST AND RECOVER FROM JET LAG.

C) ASSUMING AGAIN A MORNING ARRIVAL, WE WOULD SCHEDULE FOR YOUR
SECOND EVENING A DINNER AT MY HOUSE TO MEET COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS
AND WIVES. IF, HOWEVER, YOU ARRIVE IN THE AFTERNOON, NAN AND
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU OVER FOR A PRIVATE DINNER THAT FIRST

EVENING, OR IF YOU PREFER, SCHEDULE THEN THE LARGER DINNER TO MEET COUNTRY TEAM AND WIVES.

D) THEREAFTER, AT INTERVALS OF TWO (OR THREE) DAYS, I SUGGEST YOU HOST AT YOUR RESIDENCE TWO (OR THREE) LATE AFTERNOON RECEPTIONS TO MEET ALL AMERICAN MISSION MEMBERS (AMERICANS AND LOCALS) AND ALL NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS. I WOULD INTRODUCE YOU IN THE RECEIVING LINE. WE WOULD DEFER INVITING AFGHANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS UNTIL A LATER TIME, SAY JULY 4TH, AFTER YOU HAVE PRESENTED YOUR CREDENTIALS.

4. AT THIS JUNCTURE, I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL BEFORE YOU CAN DO THE CREDENTIALS BIT. OUR GUESS IS THAT YOU WILL BE THE FIRST NEW AMBASSADOR TO BE ACCREDITED HERE SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER. WE ALSO SURMISE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT KEEP YOU WAITING LONG AND THAT YOU WILL SEE CHAIRMAN TARAKI WITHIN FIVE TO SEVEN DAYS.

5. LOOKING FURTHER DOWN THE PIKE, WE WILL WANT BY EARLY JUNE TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR JULY 4TH. ASSUMING YOU WILL HAVE ARRIVED AND PRESENTED YOUR CREDENTIALS BY THEN, WE COULD USE THAT OCCASION AS BOTH A NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AND AN INTRODUCTORY "COMING OUT" PARTY FOR YOU. LAST YEAR WE HELD TWO FUNCTIONS: A STAG OFFICIAL ONE AT THE RESIDENCE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON FOR AFGHANS, DIPLOMATS, ETC., AND AN AMERICAN COMMUNITY PARTY EARLIER IN THE DAY. THE LATTER WAS HELD AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STARTING AT 11:00 HOURS WITH A SHORT OPENING CEREMONY AT WHICH AMBASSADOR ELIOT SPOKE, FOLLOWED BY A HALF-DAY PROGRAM OF FUN AND GAMES. IF LAST YEAR'S JULY 4TH ARRANGMENTS APPEAL TO YOU, OR IF YOU HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS, LET ME KNOW.

6. AS OTHER IDEAS OR QUESTIONS OCCUR TO ME, I WILL, OF COURSE, GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU. MEANWHILE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ANY WISHES YOU MAY HAVE AND HOW WE MIGHT HELP YOU AND MRS. DUBS.

7. A FURTHER THOUGHT REGARDING YOUR TRAVEL OUT TO KABUL. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SHORT CONSULTATION STOPS ENROUTE IN TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD, BUT THE TRADE-OFF WOULD BE THREE TO FOUR EXTRA DAYS EN ROUTE AT A TIME WHEN YOUR EARLY ARRIVAL HERE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

8. FYI, AMBASSADOR ELIOT HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT HE HOPES YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE HAD TO FILL IN THE SWIMMING POOL WITH CONCRETE SO THAT IT CAN BE USED AS AN EMERGENCY HELICOPTER PAD AND THAT THE TENNIS COURT IS BEING CONVERTED TO A PARKING LOT FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES.

9. BEST REGARDS, BRUCE.

ELIOT

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